

**AMENDMENTS THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows.*

1. – 18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising discontinuing activation of the apparatus once a treatment criteria is met.
20. (Previously Presented) A method for using an apparatus for inhibiting infection, comprising:  
positioning a surface of a heat transfer element in close proximity to a suspected area of infection; and  
activating the apparatus to cause a rapid temperature change in the suspected area of infection, wherein the activating is initiated by a temperature detector.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the activating occurs for a predetermined period.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the activating is initiated by one or more external devices in communication with the apparatus.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising discontinuing activation of the apparatus based on reaching a predetermined temperature in a target area.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising discontinuing activation of the apparatus based once a predetermined temperature of a target area is maintained for a predetermined amount of time.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)